

OLC 75-2338  
22 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : On-going Agency Behavioral Testing  
and Research Programs

I. Proposed Discussion with staff members of the Kennedy Subcommittee  
on 23 September 1975

A. As of this date, only the Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD) is engaged in any behavioral testing or experimentation. All of these concern threat assessment or countermeasures to protect our employees and agents as well as defend against penetration. All LSD testing ended in 1963 and was never resumed. All drug testing programs were terminated in 1973 and none have been approved since. At the time of termination there were two on-going drug programs as follows:

1. The acquisition of drug samples from abroad which were not available in the United States. These drugs were evaluated by laboratory analysis only. This program was cancelled in July 1973.

2. The second program involved the testing of the effects of certain depressants on animals. This program was terminated in early 1973.

B. In terms of on-going programs today, the Agency does some in-house research and literature surveys. Only two activities involve experimentation with human beings.

1. Mild electric shock administered to witting and consenting subjects to test "theory of orienting reflex" in context with polygraph countermeasures.

2. Self-Hypnosis: experimentation with human subjects in connection with the polygraph.

Both programs are contracted out and the methodology meets HEW guidelines.

C. The following is in direct response to queries raised by Senator Kennedy's Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure concerning Agency activities to influence human behavior.

1. Genetic Research with Bacteria - None

2. Behavior Control Therapy - No research programs are on-going that are addressing the subject comprehensively and generically. Biofeedback technology is being studied through literature reviews and may be studied directly in context of security requirements (polygraph countermeasures).

3. Behavior Control Surgery (Human and animal) - No active research programs. In the past one animal research project was undertaken which studied the effects on memory caused by the surgical removal of certain brain areas. Rhesus monkeys were the experimental animal.

4. Chemical Research - No active research. The literature review referred to in paragraph B above will in all probability include an up-date on the effects of alcohol.

5. Vaccine Research - None

6. Nuclear Research - None

II. Questions We May Need to Address at a Later Date:

A. The Kennedy Subcommittee has also asked about Agency involvement with [ ] the U.S. Public Service Hospital [ ] and Dr. Harold Abramson in terms of drug or behavioral testing. The [ ] documents indicate that we had a grant-in-aid relationship with a doctor at each of these two institutions but no indication of what the relationship was about. In terms of Dr. Abramson, the [ ] documents indicate that he in fact did do LSD testing for us. All of this seems to have been in 1953, but we are not able to tell when the relationship in these three cases ended. The Subcommittee also wants to know what connection we have with the Geschickter Foundation and the [ ]. The Subcommittee thinks that these two foundations were conduits for CIA money for some kind of testing program. Records are very vague on these two

institutions, but it is clear that CIA money did go to these two institutions in the mid to late 50's. We will have to do a lot more detective work to respond to this set of questions. It seems that the Subcommittee has information from sources, external to the Agency's, and possibly at the moment know more about our association with them than we do.

B. The Subcommittee stated that their interest is to gather facts to determine whether amendments need to be made to the 1974 Act covering Biomedical and Behavioral Research. Senator Kennedy spearheaded the movement of this bill, which among other things, established a committee to determine the need for a mechanism to protect the rights of human subjects in research not funded by HEW. The present staff chief says that they want to decide whether the Act should be amended to include specifically a provision to oversee such research conducted by DOD, CIA, and other agencies of the Government. Their frustration is that they don't know what we are doing and how we are doing it. Their investigation thusfar has given them hints indicated in paragraph A above suggesting something sinister might be going on. We know this is not the case. Within the limits of protecting confidences of people who have or are helping us in this field, we should be able to tell our story, which is a perfectly good one, and clear up many misunderstandings.

LS/

George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Orig - Adse

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

1 - Carl Duckett, DDS&T

✓ 1 - OLC/Subj

1 - OLC/Chrono

OLC/RC/ksn (22 September 1975)